Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Cold Spring Harbor, New York 11724

July 13, 1990

Dr. Harmon McAllister
The Council for Tobacco Research - USA, Inc.
900 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10022

Dear Dr. McAllister:

We are writing to ask your support for an upcoming meeting entitled **The Role of Isoform Diversity in Cytoskeletal Functions** which will be held April 24-28, 1991 at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. This meeting will focus on the functional significance of the isoform diversity found among cytoskeletal and contractile proteins. Unlike the many other meetings that have been dedicated to the biochemistry, molecular biology and cell biology of the cytoskeleton and contractile systems in muscle and nonmuscle cells, this will be the first meeting to be solely devoted to the significance that different isoforms have in cell function. Rapid progress is now being made in understanding the function of different isoforms in a number of biological systems. Accordingly, the meeting sessions will be organized by cellular functions as opposed to a particular filament type or protein species in order to focus attention on the role different isoforms play in the cell (see enclosed program). The first two sessions of the meeting will focus on the role different isoforms play in cell motility and contractility. The first session will encompass invertebrate systems, and the second session will focus on vertebrate systems. The remaining six sessions will cover the latest research on a number of important areas including cell division, isoform switching during development and differentiation, pathological aspects of contractile and cytoskeletal systems, cell communication, intracellular trafficking and organelle movement, and cell shape and morphogenesis. The fundamental importance of isoform diversity in cellular functions renders the subject of the conference of interest to investigators from a wide number of disciplines including cell biologists, biochemists, molecular biologists, and developmental biologists.

It is clear that this will be a well-attended and important conference. This conference provides the first opportunity for investigators from all over the world to assemble and discuss the most recent advances in understanding the role that different cytoskeletal protein isoforms play in cell function. Normally many of the people who we anticipate coming to this meeting might typically spend their limited travel funds to attend a muscle meeting, cell biology meeting, biochemistry meeting, or developmental biology meeting. It is our goal to bring them together for the first time in order to share experimental findings and discuss common problems. We have requested funds from the National Institutes of Health and National Science Foundation to help defray travel costs for young scientists. However, the budget of the National Institutes of Health is, as you know, in a state of near crisis, and the support we anticipate receiving for this conference will be grossly inadequate to cover the meeting costs. We are depending on the generosity and long-term vision of corporations to help insure the success of this conference.

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Should you be interested, we would appreciate knowing this as soon as possible and having the name of the appropriate contact for further details. Thank you very much for your consideration of our request. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information regarding this conference.

Sincerely yours,

David Helfman

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Senior Staff Investigator
516-367-8838

Encs.

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